

MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMUNITY CENTER

TARKINGTON TEEN WORK CREW

How do I donate? The easiest way to donate is online – you can find information here: <https://mlkcenterindy.org/tarkington-teen-work-crew/>. If cash or check is your thing, you can send them directly to the MLK Center (but make sure to include a note about what it's for). Of course, all donations are tax deductible.

What is the timeline for donations? Our deadline is Friday, April 20th. Allison and the MLK Center need to put together a budget for the program and need a concrete idea of the total amount donated.

What is the money used for? Most of the money goes straight to the hardworking kids. Over the course of the summer, it costs around \$1,000 per teenager. The rest goes to hiring supervisors and supplies. Your donation will not go to anything else.

What do the supervisors do? For many of these kids, this is their first real job. Part of the learning process is about learning how to work for a boss in a real work environment. The MLK Center has limited staffing and summer counselors for the elementary school kids – the staff and counselors can help with the teenagers but cannot give them full supervision. So the MLK Center hires supervisors, many of whom work in education, to help guide the kids and oversee their work during the program.

How much money do they need? In 2017, they operated the program with a budget of approximately \$33,000. In order to take the program to the next level and fully support all the kids for this year and the future, we are hoping to raise \$60,000.

What can we do with more money? There is a lot of opportunity for further development of the program. The MLK Center is developing partnerships with local organizations to provide training in technology and culinary services. They also want to add and continuing developing life-skills development, including financial literacy, training in conflict resolution, increased academic support and tutoring.

What are the kids' hours? With the limited funding provided in 2017, the MLK Center was only able to pay for kids to work 16 hours a week in alternating 4-hour shifts. Ideally, they would have enough funding to pay the kids for full-time jobs. That said, despite the limited hours, many of the kids spent full days there anyway. They often showed up before their shift or stayed afterwards – they really view the MLK Center as a safe haven from the poverty and violence of their neighborhood during the long summer days.

Is there anything else I can do to help? At this point, we are focused on raising money for the program and could use any extra attention we can get. Please share this project and the fundraising details with friends and family, on social media, and anywhere else that might help. Once the fundraiser is over, we would be happy to have volunteers at the MLK Center as well – there are always opportunities to give back!